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McDOUGALL DENOUNCES VIOLENCE IN EAST TIMOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, said that she was deeply concerned about recent events in East Timor, where several dozens of civilians were killed and nearly 100 were injured by the Indonesian Army.

"This is a shocking turn of events," said Mrs. McDougall. "It will serve only to worsen what is an already troubling human rights situation."

The Minister conveyed Canada's concern in a meeting with her Indonesian counterpart, Mr. Ali Alatas, in the context of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation gathering that she attended in Seoul.

Canada has regularly voiced its concerns about human rights in East Timor at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, during the recent visit to Canada of the Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs and in Jakarta at the highest levels of the Indonesian Government.

Canada has multiplied, through its assistance and co-operation program and its business and people exchanges, the opportunities for the Indonesian authorities and people to become better acquainted and sensitive to Canadian attitudes toward the human rights issue.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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I will go to Ottawa Dec. 9 to speak before the Foreign Affairs Review Committee on E. Timor, Jose Horta will be there and the sister of the boy killed in East Timor.